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Shoreline

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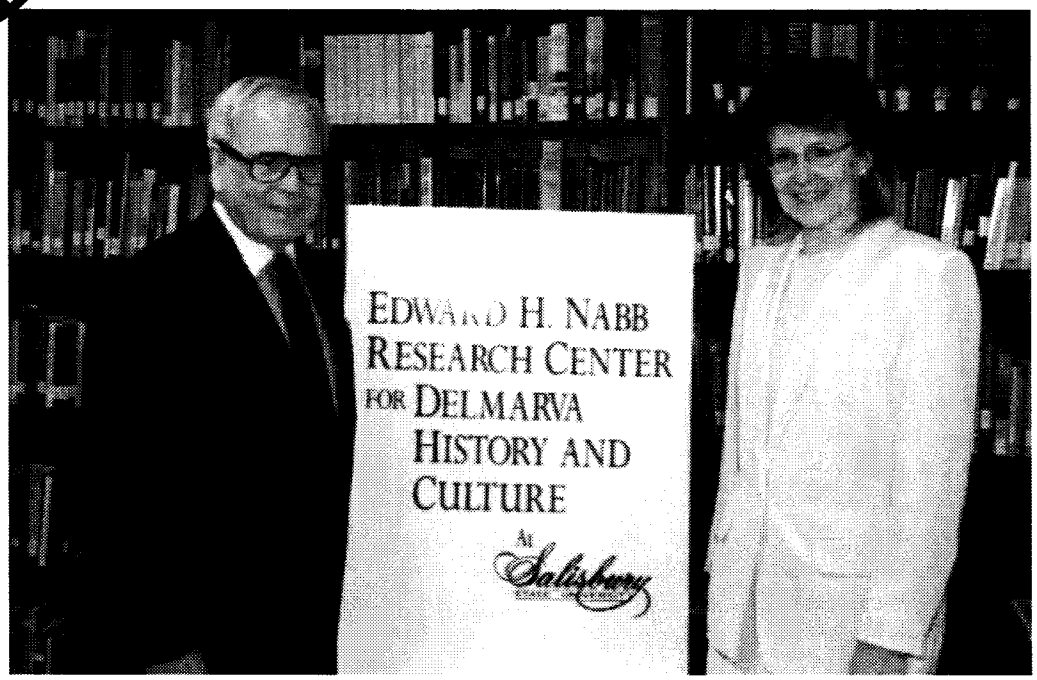
Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture at Salisbury State University

Center Endowed by Cambridge Attorney



Edward H. Nabb and Rebecca F. Miller

In June 1998 Dorchester County attorney and philanthropist Edward H. Nabb endowed the research center with $500,000 and now the facility proudly bears his name. Nabb was inspired by the center's scope of historical and cultural information and its unique regional appeal. Having traced his family, Nabb knew the special appeal a repository of regional records would have for the family history enthusiast.

As Nabb put it, "Let's face it. The Chesapeake Bay region is where the United States began, and there should really be a repository here for that information. Besides, my ancestors came to the Eastern Shore in the early 18th century as indentured servants, so I feel a strong connection here."

Nabb is a long-time friend to Salisbury State University, saying that, "Life for all of us on the Eastern Shore has been enriched by the presence of Salisbury State." For the past quarter century, he served as president of the Nathan Foundation, which has awarded $600,000 in scholarships to SSU students.

The Nabb Research Center will realize income from the generous endowment beginning July 1.

From the past to the future ...

Center and LESHC Hold Joint Reception

LATE LAST SPRING, THE NABB RESEARCH CENTER and the Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Committee (LESHC) jointly sponsored the "Get Acquainted Reception" to introduce Delmarva politicians, educators and other interested parties to both organizations. Over 100 of the Shore's leading citizens turned out to become acquainted with the organizations. The Nabb Research Center is a member of LESHC, a consortium of groups formed to recognize the connections among the natural and cultural resources of the Lower Shore. LESHC actively supported the successful passage of Maryland legislation establishing the Heritage Preservation and Tourism Areas Program. The committee coordinates activities among local jurisdictions, nonprofit organizations, business interests and government agencies.

The RCDHC recently recognized Col. George ("Buzz") Gering (second from left) for his decade-long stint as chair of the board of directors, by presentation of a gavel and plaque. SSU President William Merwin (left), center Director Rebecca Miller and former board chair E. Neil Carey were also present for the recognition.

Graduate Seminar Smashing Success

by Adam Brobosky

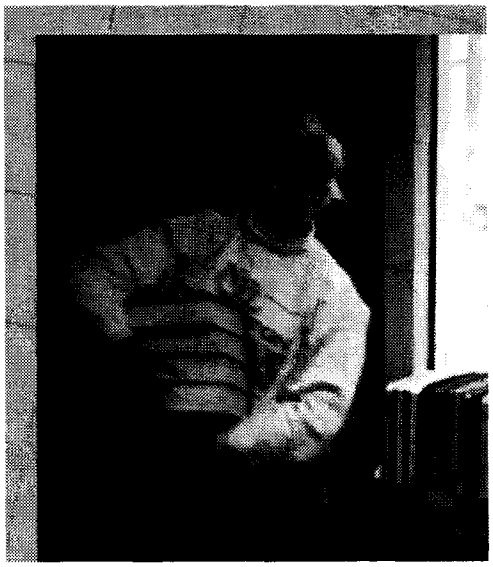
"THERE IS NO ACADEMIC LIFE EAST OF THE CHESAPEAKE." This erroneous statement is about to be proven completely false through the creation of the Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture at Salisbury State University. Delmarvans have always been extremely proud of their unique heritage; finally, academic recognition of that heritage is imminent.

Current studies of colonial history ignore the singular conditions that have made the Delmarva Peninsula truly special, and have lumped the Eastern Shore in with the mainland. The Nabb Research Center will enable historians to explore the accuracy of those studies, and provide a more accurate picture of life on Delmarva through examination of the oldest continuous original document collection in the continental United States. The past truly does come alive in the Nabb Center's collection of wills, court records, church records and other primary source documents, as well as in the excellent secondary source works dealing with the region.

In June 1998, a class of Salisbury State graduate students availed themselves of these documents by investigating the question of economic diversity between Old Somerset County and other counties in the Province of Maryland between 1672 and 1700. By examining existing records, they were able to compare the wealth of individuals at their time of death, and make generalizations about the economic conditions of an area. The students found that, on the average, Eastern Shore counties fared much better than their equivalent across the Chesapeake, and that Somerset County was a depiction of a typical county on the Eastern Shore. Furthermore, the students were able to irretrievably link the Shore to the tobacco economy through the fluctuation in the value of household property through the 1670s, '80s and '90s.

Due to the ability of students to access, and use, the wealth of untapped information in the Nabb Research Center, its destiny as one of the preeminent research institutions in the country is just over the horizon. History is not just for professional historians, especially in an area that takes such pride in its roots. The center is also a valuable tool for anyone to use, whether to look up family information, or to just find out more about this special place we call home.

Board Member Focus



THERE IS SOMEONE IN OUR COMMUNITY who quietly goes about her business of helping others. She is well known in Salisbury, but not many realize just how involved in the betterment of our community Mrs. J.C. (Pat) Taylor is. This is a lady who is quick to smile, always ready to help and reliable.

Among her many community involvements are president of the Lower Delmarva Genealogical Society; docent of Pemberton Hall and Wicomico Heritage Centre; volunteer in the Maryland Room, Wicomico County Free Library; and member of the Pemberton Historical Park Board, the Board of Preservation Trust of Wicomico and the Daughters of the American Revolution. In addition to these activities devoted to the study of history and its preservation, Taylor devotes many hours to work at Wicomico Presbyterian Church in such manner as Titus woman for MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers), Sunday School teacher for 5th and 6th graders, member of the Youth Council and circle leader.

Taylor is also a member of the board of directors of the Nabb Research Center. Aside from her board activities, Taylor volunteers at least once a week on Thursdays, and other times when her assistance is needed. She has taken several graduate-level classes in local history at SSU to give her the knowledge to be a valuable volunteer at the Nabb Research Center.

It takes people like Taylor to make a community like Salisbury a nice place to live. The Nabb Research Center wouldn't be what it is today without her. Thanks Pat Taylor.

Smith Island Life Exhibit

April 2-May 21
Atrium Gallery, Guerrieri University Center
Salisbury State University

The Nabb Research Center is pleased to sponsor the exhibit "Smith Island Life," curated by Gail M. Walczyk of Coram, NY. She is a member of the research center who "winters in Tylerton and summers at Ewell."

Walczyk describes herself as a "come back" [to the Shore]. Her mother was born in Accomack County, VA, and her roots have been traced to Smith Island and other parts of Somerset County, as well as Virginia's Eastern Shore. For 20 years, Walczyk has been a student of Smith Island life and family history and has recently been engaged, with her husband Frank, in transcribing and publishing historical records through her company, Peter's Row.

"Smith Island Life" is comprised of 41 photographs depicting scenes of Smith Island and her people. Many of the photographs were collected by Jim Bradshaw of San Diego, a native of the island who, with his family, moved from the island as a boy. For the past decade, Bradshaw has returned to the island, going door-to-door, photographing old photographs.

Some of the photographs are contemporary, taken by Meggan Heinrich, a graduate student in archaeology at Stoney Brook University, Setauket, NY. The exhibit will be arranged somewhat chronologically and reflect life, past and present, on Smith Island.

Center Has New Look

AS COLLECTIONS ROLL IN, space becomes a premium at the Nabb Research Center. Over the winter term 1999, with the help of some of Dr. Ray Thompson's seminar students, the center staff completely rearranged the Nabb Research Center. The students involved were the center's own Brad Marsh and David "Lucas" Johnson, as well as Mike Bales and Mark Woodard.

The long-planned-for rearrangement has yielded a much larger reading space and has opened up the entire room visually. The archival holdings were moved to the conference room and another small room in the facility. The cartography collection was moved to what had been the Native-American Room, to incorporate the map and surveyors' collections.

Chris Powell, son of center staffer Iris Powell, constructed additional microfilm shelving for the center. This addition has allowed us to conserve space and allow easy access to all microfilm holdings. If you haven't been by recently, you will be surprised.

We have also designed a new logo for the center, reflecting the name change. This logo will be used on stationery and other items for the Nabb Research Center.

In the middle of reorganization

Message from the Director

Saving the past for the future:

a glimpse at the preservation of local records

by Rebecca Furniss Miller

Psalms 6:16 tells us, "yea, I have a goodly heritage." Sometimes we take that heritage for granted and it gets away from us. Recently, the Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture was fortunate to receive donations from two sources hundreds of miles apart, each a reflection of someone's heritage that ebbed away. Nabb Center member C.R.V. "Rob" Hall of Alexandria, VA, donated 37 original photographs from the Adams, Costen, Gillis, Tull, Williams and Veasey families that he purchased at a Delaware flea market. Quite a few of the *circa* 1890-1910 photographs are identified by name, though none by date. Hall was so intrigued that identified family photographs were for sale, he researched the names on the photographs, finding the identities outlined in Matthew M. Wise's *The Littleton Heritage* (1997), thus establishing provenance for them and adding another dimension of interest.

The common denominator is that the subjects were all descended from or related to Thomas Adams (1761-1832) and his wife, Mary Rounds, daughter of John Rounds and Priscilla Gillis. The subjects pictured here are Rose (Dryden) Adams, who became the wife of Robert W. Adams (1847-1919), in 1881, two of their four children, Eleanor Williams Adams (b. 1886), and Morris Henry Adams (1888-1974), and Olivia A. Adams Costen (1842-1941), wife of Dr. Isaac Thomas Costen (1832-1931). Dr. Costen was the first mayor of Pocomoke City, as well as a member of the Maryland State Legislature. His Victorian Italianate style home in Pocomoke City is on the National Register of Historical Sites and has hours for public visitation. The photographs were taken at different times, each from a different photographer: Russell & Co. of 5 N. Charles St., Baltimore; D.J. Gordon of Pocomoke City; and Wallace of Lewisburg, WV. Historians use photographs to illustrate period material culture. Note the curls in the lad's hair and the elaborate bow tie–the classic "Little Lord Fauntleroy" look. Eleanor has the look of the "Gibson Girl" style of hair and clothing.

Within a few days of receiving the photographs, a box arrived at the center from Rhode Island, containing a 1764 edition of the Bible with a note from the donor stating, "At long last the Bible is going home!" Upon examination, the leather bound Bible contained entries of births, deaths and marriages of the Perkins family and many of its descendants, commencing with the death of "John Purkins (sic) on the fifth day of December in the year 1719," and ending with a notation of the death on May 27, 1958, of Philip Marcus Miles, born October 20, 1886, the son of John Francis and Catherine F. Miles.

The Bible also contained a slip of paper signed, "Mrs. Sally M. Spence, Synapuxent" with the following recipe or "receipt" as we used to say: "Take a small piece of Bacon hang it up before the fire and while it is roasting bast it with as much tar as you want for your ointment, by doing this it works faster, when it is sufficiently greasy and the tar is cooked, take it off, and add as much sulfur ginger and alum as will lie on the point of a case knife, mix it all in well together and it is then fit for use." We may only guess what ailment this cured; surely one did not ingest this concoction.

Olivia A. Adams Costen (1842-1941), wife of Dr. Isaac Thomas Costen (1832-1931), the first mayor of Pocomoke City and a member of the Maryland State Legislature.

The subjects pictured here (clockwise from far right) are Rose (Dryden) Adams, who became the wife of Robert W. Adams (1847-1919) in 1881, two of their four children, Eleanor Williams Adams (b. 1886) and Morris Henry Adams (1888-1974).

Aside from the interesting recipe and the family information, the Bible itself is a fascinating piece of history. It is complete with rituals for Morning and Evening Prayer, Solemnization of Matrimony, the Communion of the Sick, the Order for the Burial of the Dead, Articles of Religion, Order for Morning Prayer "with fasting, to be used yearly upon the thirtieth day of January, being the Day of the Martyrdom of the blessed King Charles the First," Morning Prayer for the "End to the Great Rebellion, by the Restitution of the King and Royal Family and the Restoration of the Government ... upon the Twenty ninth of May ... that Day in every Year byAct of Parliament appointed to be for ever kept holy." If one could not deduce this Bible belonged to a Church of England (Episcopal after the American Revolution) family from the type of Bible, one need only look in the Coventry Parish Records of old Somerset County to find their names.

Upon inquiry to the donor, we learned that the Bible had been found and purchased for less than five dollars many years ago in an antique shop in Baltimore. Again, a family's heritage for sale, saved by a tender-hearted stranger who, like the donor of the photographs, sought a suitable repository of safekeeping for such treasure. These items, and many others like them, have found a home at the Nabb Research Center where they are properly stored, revered by the archivists and appreciated by the researchers who travel from all points to discover the history of Delmarva and thus themselves.

FOREWORD TO *A Supplement to The Early Settlers of Maryland**

by Christopher N. Allan, Deputy State Archivist

Maryland is fortunate to have a remarkable collection of records at the State Archives that documents the history of the colony and state. At the heart of this rich archival heritage are the records of the Land Office from which all title to land in Maryland derives and in which are found the head rights upon which many of the original tracts were granted. In 1994, Dr. Carson Gibb told Edward C. Papenfuse, Archivist of the State of Maryland, that he had found in the Land Office records names not in *The Early Settlers of Maryland* and that he was ready to search the records for more.

The Conditions of Plantation

In helping us to understand better the records of migration to Maryland, Dr. Gibb has focused our attention on the headright system, not only whether its records are reliable, but also on when and why it ended. It was initiated by Cecilius Calvert, Second Lord Baltimore, as an inducement to those considering emigration to Maryland. The promise of land is a powerful attraction and figures often in the development of America. When and why it was terminated is not widely known. The title page and the entries in *Early Settlers* imply that it ended in 1680, but Warrants WC4 has warrants issued for head rights as late as spring 1682/83. These questions give a glimpse of the vicissitudes of administering a colonial venture.

Charles Calvert, the Third Lord Baltimore, first suggested that he was going to abolish the headright system in a proclamation issued June 3, 1676. He complained that his agents had not properly returned many of the rights to land proved before them to be entered among the records. Even when this was done, he was not certain that the secretaries had made the appropriate entries. Calvert believed that, as a result, "the titles of divers of the said adventurers to their land are dubious and questionable and may hereafter be questioned to the great prejudice of the inhabitants of this province in after times when things cannot be made appear." Having suggested that the current system was not effective, he stated his intention to cease offering land in return for providing transportation to the province within two years. (Land Office (Patents) 19:459-460 MSA S11-23).

Despite reiterating his desire to end the system of head rights in 1678 and issuing several further proclamations to that effect, the Proprietor issued two extensions that, in effect, appear to have kept the headright system alive. In June of 1678, he allowed eight more months for rights to land to be proved. The first was an order for the relief of residents in Somerset County dated June 14, 1678. It did not extend the time in which people could immigrate or be transported and claim a headright to land. It merely offered additional time to prove rights to land due to those already in the province. (Land Office (Patents) 19:636-637 MSA S11-23) . The second proclamation, dated June 19, 1678, applied the terms suggested for Somerset County to the whole colony, however, noting that "several inhabitants of this province have informed me, that by reason of the late troubles with the Indians, and other urgent occasions in their crops hindering, they could not attend the Secretary's Office for finding out their Patents." It does not forbid the issuance of new head rights for new arrivals. (Governor and Council (Proceedings) RR:164 MSA S1071-7).

Thus, it does not appear that the practice of granting land for immigrants ceased with either of these orders. Another proclamation, dated May 15, 1683, again stated that land would be sold for 100 lbs of tobacco per fifty acres. Lord Baltimore emphasized that "the taking up of land by rights within this our province of Maryland hath proved not only grievous and burthen some to the inhabitants—for paying for the same extravagant and extortious rates when to be procured but also very injurious and prejudicial to ourselves by undue and unjust probate made of such rights." (Governor and Council (Proceedings) RR:190 MSA S1071-7.)

Lord Baltimore's stated concerns in ending the system are essentially (a) that his agents had not been diligent in performing their duties, thus jeopardizing title to land for those who received grants; (b) the process was very expensive for the prospective landowner and copy; he believed the administration of the system had deprived the Proprietor of a great deal of income.

The cause of these concerns was the speculative manipulation of the system. A thriving business had evolved in the rights assigned by those entitled to land. While a number of people appear to have prospered in this trade, Lord Baltimore did not profit. Further, while the market for the head rights was thriving and warrants for land were being bought and sold, the expected surveying and taking up of land did not follow. Lord Baltimore's revenue came from the fees for warrants, certificates of survey, and patents and from the quitrent paid on land once it was patented. So not only had the system not benefited Lord Baltimore, but the speculation that sprang from it may actually have hindered the settlement upon which his income depended.

Further complicating matters was the influence of the people involved in this speculation, most of Lord Baltimore's principal officials. John Llewellin, Clerk of the Council and Vincent Lowe, Surveyor General, received a number of assignments. So did other members of the Provincial Council: Henry Darnall, William Stevens, George Talbot, and William Digges. Their participation certainly is one of the reasons why the end of the head right system was delayed until 1683.

The occasion of the end of the system was probably the fall in the price of tobacco. It reduced the number of new settlers claiming land and thus made speculation in head rights a marginal undertaking. Considering the status of the participants, this must have been a convenient juncture at which to end the practice. Whatever may be learned in the future about the end of the head right system, what we have learned is partly due to Dr. Gibb's work.

It also reminds us that we need to look at records as a reflection of how well or how ill government has served us. In the case of the patent records, later, well-intentioned but often inept or incomplete transcriptions, adversely affect our ability to comprehend the nature and extent of the daily course of government. Those clerks who attempted to create some order out of the chaos of the early record keeping in 1717, and again in 1724, as evidenced by Patents AB&H and Patents 1, and those who in the 19th Century abstracted from the seriatim record to create the printed *Archives of Maryland* series, provided a distorted and inaccurate picture of the governing of the colony during its first fifty years or so of settlement. As we can see from the earliest extant record book of the colony (Liber Z) and from the original of Liber A (by 1680 missing its first fifty pages), the record of government loses much of its richness, diversity, color, and even accuracy when dissected into separate functions. When, in the case of the Archives' volumes, transcriptions omit huge sections of the business (such as claims for head rights) it even provides a woefully incomplete picture of both the work and the accomplishments of those who labored as the record keepers of the colony.

By paying so much deserved attention to the question of who constituted the immigrants of the first fifty years of Maryland's history, Dr. Gibb has not only put names to thousands [8600] more who came but he has also reawakened our interest in the process of recording how well and in what ways they were governed.

**Edited for use in* Shoreline *and reprinted with permission from the author. For full text, please see the monograph* A Supplement to the Early Settlers of Maryland *or see <www.mdarchives.state.md.us/msa/speccol/4341/html/foreword.html>. The Nabb Research Center has* A Supplement, *as well as* Early Settlers, *the Archives of Maryland and 96 reels of patent records 1637-1748.*

More . . .

Chambers Donates Computers

Debbie Bradshaw Chambers, principal of Dragon Research, recently donated two Gateway computers, complete with 19- and 21-inch monitors. The equipment was a significant upgrade for the Nabb Research Center. Chambers had taken a class based out of the center and noted that the facility needed equipment. Generous persons such as Chambers help the Nabb Research Center in its mission by providing better technological service to students and patrons.

A Comment From One of Our Members

"The Edward Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture in Salisbury, MD, is an excellent facility for researching Eastern Shore history and genealogy and is stimulating a lot of work to open up some of the long forgotten secrets of Somerset's past."
John Polk
Havre de Grace, MD

Manuscript Resource Online

The National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections (NUCMC) is available online at <lcweb.loc.gov/coll/nucmc/nucmc.html>. Why should Nabb Research Center members be interested in this?

A union catalog is the result of recording and describing the holdings of multiple libraries, archives and other repositories, which will contain entries for family Bibles, family papers, business records, church records, photographs, political and advocacy organization records, maps, charts, architectural plans, letters, correspondence, diaries and more. The NUCMC may assist a researcher in locating that one-of-a-kind item, held in a repository, far away from the origin of the document.

The Nabb Research Center wants to hear if you find something in which we might be interested. Happy hunting.

Net News

Those readers who have an interest in the Eastern Shore of Virginia should not miss the Genealogy/History of the Eastern Shore (GHOTES) Web page at <www.esva.net/ghotes/ghotes9.htm>. The site is managed by "ghotesmama" Barbara Cox, of San Clemente, CA. The original members are called "old ghotes" and all others who subscribe to the digest are "ghotes." There is no fee, just a willingness to exchange good information.

The Delmarva Division:

The Development of Railroads on Delmarva

by Arthur J. Malestein, member of the Research Center

The Pennsylvania Railroad (PRR) was once called "the Standard Railroad of the World," providing freight and passenger service transportation over thousands of miles of track in the mid-West and mid-Atlantic states.

Radiating out of Broad Street Station, Philadelphia, were the major, or primary, lines to Washington, New York, Pittsburgh, and hence to St. Louis and Chicago. Many secondary lines and a tertiary branch line, which led into the primary trunk lines, also existed; the Delmarva Division of the PRR was one of these secondary lines.

I grew up in (s)lower Delaware, in Bridgeville, to be exact. Bridgeville is one of the oldest towns on the peninsula and was founded by Christopher Nutter, Indian interpreter, in 1684. The area was known as "Attawattacoquin," by the Native Americans, which, loosely translated, means "in the middle of nowhere." It was here in the 1950s and early 1960s that I became fascinated with railroading as I watched the freight and passenger trains that served my home town.

Railroading on the Delmarva Peninsula began in February 1834, with the beginning of the New Castle and Frenchtown Railroad (NC&FRR). This 16-mile railroad provided service across the northern and narrowest part of the peninsula with steamboat connections to Philadelphia at New Castle, DE, and to Baltimore at Frenchtown, MD, at the mouth of the Elk River. There were also plans to build a railroad down the length of the Peninsula in the 1830s and 1840s, but it was not until 1852 when the Delaware Railroad Co. was organized that any plan came to fruition. The Delaware Railroad (DRR) was backed by, and a subsidiary of, the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad (PW&BRR). Construction began in the spring of 1855, utilizing first the PW&B's Wilmington and New Castle branch, and then six miles of the NC&F from New Castle to Red Lion, DE. This early railroad was never a success due to competition from the Chesapeake & Delaware Canal and the PW&B. The DRR reached Dover, DE, the capital of the first state, in January 1856, and the original terminus of the line, Seaford, DE, in November 1856. Branches were extended from Harrington, DE, to Milford, DE, and from Seaford to Delmar, DE, on the southernmost boundary of the Mason-Dixon Line in 1859. In 1860, another railroad, the Eastern Shore Railroad (ESRR), built north and connected Salisbury, MD, with the DRR at Delmar. No further work was done between 1861 and 1865, until the Civil War was over.

Work began anew in 1866, with ESRR building south of Princess Anne, MD, and reaching Somer's Cove (renamed Crisfield), MD, in November 1866. At Crisfield, steamers provided connecting service to Norfolk, VA. The branch to Milford was extended to Georgetown, DE, in 1868 and Lewes, DE, in 1869. Other branches of the DRR were started in the late 1860s and completed in the 1870s: from Seaford to Cambridge, MD; Clayton, DE, to Easton and Oxford, MD; Townsend, DE, to Queenstown and Centreville, MD; from Georgetown south to Millsboro and Selbyville, DE; Berlin and Snow Hill, MD, to Franklin City, VA; to Chincoteague, VA, via ferry from Franklin City; and finally, from Princess Anne to Pocomoke City, MD.

The next major building project came in the early 1880s. In order to provide better north-south transportation through Norfolk, VA, Alexander Johnston Cassatt, the brother of the famous American Impressionist painter Mary Cassatt, built the New York, Philadelphia and Norfolk Railroad (NYP&NRR) in a straight line, south from Pocomoke to the northern shore of the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay, Cape Charles. On 2,000 acres of cornfields, the community and railroad terminus of Cape Charles City, VA, was built. Work had begun in April 1884, and completed on October 25. Cassatt acquired the ESRR on June 1, 1884, built docks and yards in Cape Charles City and Norfolk, started the first steamboat and then, in early 1885, car float service across the bay. The PRR purchased controlling interest of the PW&B in 1881, and the DRR and its branches also came under Pennsy control. The DRR became the Delaware Division of the PW&B, and then the Delaware Division of the Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington Railroad (PB&W) was merged with the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad. After this road became the Maryland Division of the PRR in 1902, the Delaware Division followed. The NYP&N became the Norfolk Division in 1922 and in 1930 these two were merged to form the Delmarva Division. Finally, Pennsy's Maryland and Delmarva divisions merged in 1955, to form the Chesapeake Region.

The railroads on the peninsula and the Delmarva Division were profitable and important feeders of traffic into the Pennsy system until the 1950s. Government subsidized highways were siphoning-off too much freight and almost all passenger traffic. The mainline, which had been double-tracked in the nineteenteens, was again reduced to a single track. In 1968, the chronically ill PRR made the biggest mistake in America's economic history: merging with deathly ill New York Central System to create the Penn Central Transportation Company. Penn Central, under the skilled entrepreneurial guidance of Sauncers, Perlman, and Bevins, went bankrupt in 1972, and eventually merged with other northeastern railroads on April 1, 1976, to form Conrail, belatedly and reluctantly supported by the federal government. Throughout this period, the former Delmarva Division degenerated to an insignificant and neglected part of the "Penny-less Central." In 1977, the Southern Railway System (now Norfolk Southern) expressed interest in acquiring the whole of the Delmarva Division and

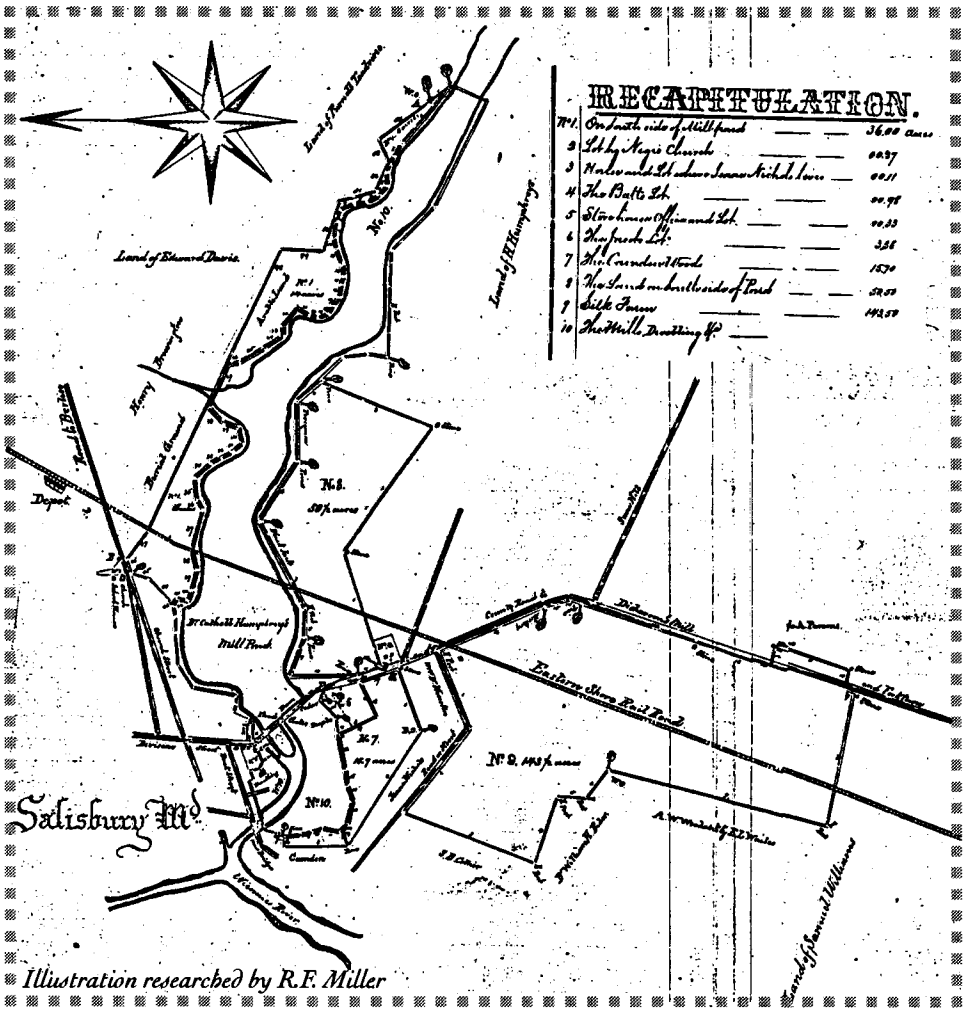


Illustration researched by R.F. Miller

upgrading it to "world class" standards. Unfortunately, because of the incredible mental myopia that will sometimes affect labor unions, this plan came to naught. Conrail took over the mainline from Wilmington to Pocomoke and the branch from Harrington to Millsboro, while two short lines, the Maryland and Delaware, and the Maryland and Virginia Railroads (later renamed the Eastern Shore Railroad), took over the rest of the lines.

Besides the first railroad, the NC&F, two other cross, or transpeninsular, railroads were built in the late 19th century: Baltimore, Chesapeake and Atlantic Railroad (BC&ARR) and the Queen Anne Railroad (QARR). Both had steamer connections across the Chesapeake Bay to Baltimore. The QARR initially had a steamboat connection across the Delaware Bay from Lewes, DE, to Cape May, NJ, 60 years before the current Cape May-Lewes Ferry. The PRR also operated several steamboat lines out of Baltimore to various points on the peninsula as well as to points along the "Western Shore" of the bay. The BC&A and the QA were eventually taken over by Pennsy. These and other steamboat lines were abandoned in the late 1920s and 1930s, because of the shift to highways and Pennsy's preference to move all freight and passengers north-south through Wilmington, and then west and east.

Passenger trains operated on the peninsula from the very beginning until December 31, 1965. In fact, my great-great grandmother Mary Anne Sorden Stuart, Delaware's first feminist and a pioneer of the women's suffrage movement, made a small fortune as a travel agent by organizing group trips with the railroad. The two name trains were numbers 454/455, the Del-Mar-Va Express and 448/449, the Cavalier. The Del-Mar-Va Express was the fast day-train and the Cavalier was the overnight train. They ran from Philadelphia (and sometimes New York), to Cape Charles; both had steamboat connections to downtown Norfolk. Branch line passenger trains were discontinued in August 1949. In the early 1950s, two mainline unnamed locals were next. The Cavalier was discontinued in 1956, and the Del-Mar-Va Express was discontinued south of Delmar in 1958. Number 454/455, now an unnamed Delmar-Philadelphia local, was discontinued in May 1965, but this caused protests. Briefly from July 1-December 31, 1965, 454/455 was revived as the Blue Diamond. It was a less than faint-hearted attempt to maintain service, and it too died.

Ironically the same month, August 1949, that branch line service ended. Pennsy was testing on the Delmarva Division for the Budd Co. (their demonstrator car #2960). It was the prototype of Budd's wonderful and economic self-propelled passenger coaches, the RBC. On the other hand, the PRR in 1933, with the Wilson Lines (the famous Wilmington, DE, based steamboat company) formed the Virginia Ferry Corporation to profit from the growing traffic by offering frequent ferry service between Cape Charles and Little Creek, VA (con Cape Henry between Norfolk and Virginia Beach). One of the ferries, the Princess Anne, was even streamlined by none other than, the great industrial designer Raymond Loewy. This service lasted until the late sixties, when the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel was opened.

In 1964, when the Commonwealth of Virginia was planning to build the tunnel across the bay, the state invited the railroad industry to help as a railroad project. The PRR was, by now, too financially strapped to make such a huge investment and declined the offer.

Today, the old Delmarva Division is doing quite well. Although I will not permit the 65 mph running as The Del-Mar-Va Express once did, Conrail has upgraded the physical plant from the deplorable conditions of the early 1970s. Conrail still operates between Wilmington and Pocomoke, serving the industries in Dover, Seaford and Salisbury. It interchanges freight with the short lines (the former branches), and hauls long coal-trains to Delmarva Power and Light's Indian River Generating Station near Millsboro. Even The Blue Diamond has been reincarnated after fashion; the state-supported bus service between Wilmington and Dover, DE, was originally called the Blue Diamond Line Service.

The majority of this information came from *Rails Along the Chesapeake: A History of Railroading on the Delmarva Peninsula 1827-1978* by John C. Hayman.

Recognition of our members ...

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1101 Camden Avenue
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Upcoming Events

April 15

Lecture: **Invisible Communities and Sites in Delaware** by Ned Heite of Heite Consulting

Time: 7 p.m.

April 24

Workshop: **Program for School Children**

Diane Halsall of Parsons Engineering and Charles C. Clark, IV, assistant chief of the Nanticoke Indian Association, will give a joint program for children including a hands-on archaeology/artifact workshop and Native American storytelling.

Time: TBA

April 29

Lecture: **The Changing Chesapeake Landscape: Life and Living at the Edge of the Sea** by Dr. Wayne H. Bell, Vice President for External Relations, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science

Time: 7 p.m.

All events are sponsored by the
Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture,
located in the Power Professional Building, Salisbury State University.

Events are Free
Contact Rebecca Miller, Director, at 410-543-6312